Dear Wellesley Water Customers,

We're pleased to share with you this year's Consumer Confidence Report, which provides an overview of the quality of your drinking water and the work being done to ensure it remains safe and dependable.

Every drop that reaches your home is the result of careful planning, around-the-clock monitoring, and the dedicated efforts of the Wellesley Water & Sewer Division. We are proud to report that your drinking water met or exceeded all state and federal safety standards in 2024.

Last year, we completed several key improvements to strengthen our system. These included bringing a new well online to replace aging infrastructure, continuing a multi-year effort to identify and remove lead service lines, upgrading treatment plant components to improve efficiency and water conservation, and nearly completing our water meter replacement program—empowering customers to better understand and manage their water use.

We also took proactive steps to safeguard against PFAS and other emerging contaminants, and our team remains focused on protecting the health of our community and the resilience of our water supply for generations to come.

We take great pride in serving the residents and businesses of Wellesley and are committed to maintaining the highest standards in water quality, customer service, and environmental stewardship. If you have any questions about this report or your water service, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Aaron J. Miller
Water & Sewer Superintendent

Water & Sewer
Wellesley Department of Public Works

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WELLESLEY'S WATER SOURCES

In 2024, thirty-five percent (35%) of our water came from our local well supplies and sixty-five percent (65%) came from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). A very small portion, less than half a percent, of our total water use is received from Natick to supply the area on the western shore of Morses Pond. The availability of both local and regional water supply sources provides diversity and reliability.

Wellesley's local water supplies consist of ten wells located within the Town. Four wells tap into the Waban Brook aquifer and six wells tap into the Rosemary Brook aquifer. The water pumped from the ten wells is treated at our three corrosion control and iron/manganese removal facilities. The groundwater wells are as follows:

- 3317000-04G: Rosemary GP Well
- 3317000-05G: Longfellow GP Well
- 3317000-08G: T.F. Coughlin SW1 GP Supplemental Well
- 3317000-09G: T.F. Coughlin SW3 GP Supplemental Well
- 3317000-02G: Wellesley Ave. Dug Well
- 3317000-06G: T.F. Coughlin GP Well
- 3317000-10G: Morses Pond GP Well #1
- 3317000-11G: Morses Pond GP Well #2
- 3317000-12G: Morses Pond GP Well #3
- 3317000-13G: Morses Pond GP Well #4

The MWRA is a regional utility that uses surface water supplies in central Massachusetts at the Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs and the Ware River. **The MWRA water quality report is the final page of this document and is available on their website.** The 2024 year results of all detected contaminants in MWRA water are included on the last page of this report. When reviewing the water quality data, it is important to keep in mind that a blending of the MWRA and our local waters will cause the differences in the two waters to moderate.

The diversity of our water supply sources provides flexibility so that a reliable supply of water is available to serve your needs.

In addition to these active supply sources, the Wellesley water distribution system is also interconnected with four other public water suppliers for mutual emergency preparedness. These four other water suppliers are Natick, Needham, Weston, and Wellesley College.

WATER TREATMENT SYSTEM

Wellesley operates three water treatment facilities. The primary purpose of these facilities is to provide the regulatory approved Treatment Technique (TT) for corrosion control under the Safe Drinking Water Act's Lead and Copper Rule. These facilities provide the same treatment processes to all of our wells. Figure #1 illustrates the treatment processes at these facilities. The well water is oxidized and its pH is adjusted prior to filtration. The filter process removes the naturally occurring iron and manganese minerals in the raw water. The filtration units consist of anthracite, green sand and garnet sand. After filtration, the water cascades through a tray aerator, which removes naturally occurring carbon dioxide from the water. This aeration process removes the acidity from the water. The water is fluoridated and finally the water is disinfected with hypochlorite and detained in large holding tanks prior to being pumped into the distribution system.

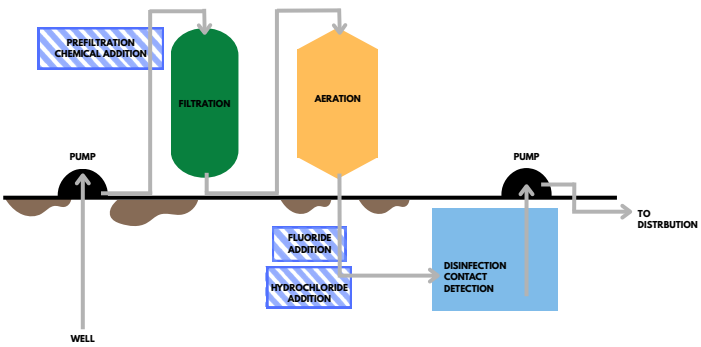


Figure #1

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

Our water system is routinely inspected by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The DEP inspects our system for its technical, financial, and managerial capacity to provide safe drinking water to you. The DEP last conducted a sanitary survey of the Wellesley Water System in 2022. Their report listed no violations or deficiencies to be corrected. To ensure that we provide the highest quality of water available, your water system is operated by Massachusetts certified operators who oversee the routine operations of our system. As part of our ongoing commitment to you, in 2024 we made the following improvements to our system:

- Construction of the new Rosemary Well was completed and put into service in July. This well replaced the existing well, which had served its predicted lifespan and was struggling to produce adequate water supply.
- The department started a project to document the materials used in the towns 8,500 service lines. This is the beginning of a 3-year project to find and replace any lead services in the towns water distribution system.
- The Water and Sewer Division partnered with Hydrus Controls to rebuild the 5 backwash valves and replace the actuators for each valve at the Wellesley Ave Treatment Plant. This work will enhance the efficiency of the backwash system, conserve water, and reduce treatment costs by preventing excessive filter media from escaping during the backwash cycle.
- The water meter replacement project, started in 2020, is now 99% complete. This project provides data that the department uses to inform our sustainability and customer outreach efforts. It also gives our customers the ability to make more informed decisions about their water usage and detect leaks before they have a financial impact on their water and sewer bill.

WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

There are about 150 miles of street mains that distribute our water throughout the town to ensure the efficient and reliable delivery of potable water to our customers and the sufficient supply of water for fire protection. This distribution system also includes two large storage facilities that have a total capacity of nearly six million gallons. Due to the configuration of the distribution mains and the storage facilities, water from any given supply source has the capability of reaching any point within the town.

PFAS UPDATE

The Water and Sewer Division partnered with a consultant, Environmental Partners, to develop an Interim PFAS filtration system for the Morses Pond Water Treatment Plant. A Temporary GAC and Ion Exchange Filtration system was completed and put into service on June 17, 2022, and has non-detectable levels since its start up. In June 2024, media from the GAC and lead IX vessel were changed out for fresh media to ensure water produced from Morses Pond continues to meet our water quality standards. The data collected will be used to develop a permanent treatment solution. The Wellesley Ave and Longfellow Treatment Plants have remained below the current Maximum Contaminant Level for PFAS and continue to be monitored regularly.

Our Water Treatment Plant at Morses Pond is home to our temporary PFAS treatment. It produces about 700,000 gallons of drinking water each day.

Morses Pond Water Treatment Plant

EPA/DEP REGULATION UPDATE

The Water and Sewer Division partnered with a consultant, Environmental Partners, to develop an Interim PFAS filtration system for the Morses Pond Water Treatment Plant. A Temporary GAC and Ion Exchange Filtration system was completed and put into service on June 17, 2022, and has non-detectable levels since its start up. In June 2024, media from the GAC and lead IX vessel were changed out for fresh media to ensure water produced from Morses Pond continues to meet our water quality standards. The data collected will be used to develop a permanent treatment solution.

At Town Meeting, the Water Department asked for and was granted authorization to invest an additional $1,340,000 to fund design of a permanent PFAS treatment system at the Morses Pond Water Treatment Plant as well as the interim treatment solutions at the Town's other two water treatment plants. We intend to design additions to our current facilities that would meet all current and future EPA/DEP regulations and ensure safe drinking water for the community.

PFAS Ion Exchange Filter

PFAS and GAC Trailers

WATER SOURCE ISSUES

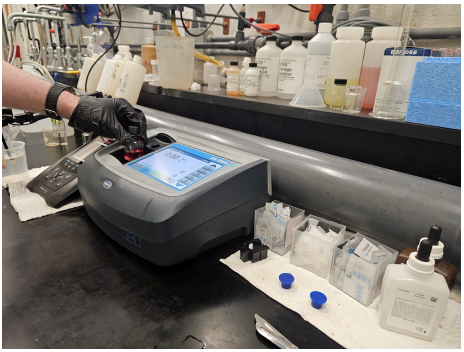
The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection completed its Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for all of Wellesley's local water supply sources. Copies of this report are available upon request by emailing dpw@wellesleyma.gov. The report is intended to be used as a planning tool to support local and state efforts to improve water supply protection. The assessment helps focus protection efforts on appropriate best management practices and drinking water source protection measures.

WATER QUALITY TESTING RESULTS

WELLESLEY WATER QUALITY

There were over 1,300 chemical analyses performed by independent laboratories on our water during 2024. Our staff performed more than 15,000 chemical analyses to ensure proper operation of our treatment facilities. The categories of contaminants analyzed are: Microbiological, Lead and Copper, Inorganics, Volatile Organics, Disinfection By-Products, Synthetic Organics, and Radionuclides. The water quality information presented is from the most recent round of testing done in accordance with regulations. All water quality results in this report are for 2024, unless otherwise indicated.

Water quality is monitored 24 hours a day at our three treatment facilities, where water treatment operators perform routine water quality sampling throughout our distribution system. These practices ensure Town of Wellesley residents receive drinking water that has met or exceeded Federal and State standards. For any questions about our water quality testing practices, contact the Water & Sewer Department at (781) 235-7600 x 3350.



In-house water quality testing

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

In reading this report, it is important to distinguish between ppm, ppb, and ppt. Due to the characteristics of various chemicals, their concentrations have been reported in the more appropriate unit of measure.

ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/l)
ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/l)
ppt: parts per trillion, or nanograms per liter
pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a pCi/L measure of radioactivity)
ND: Not Detected
NRS: No Regulatory Standard
N/A: Not Applicable

The following definitions may be useful in understanding this report:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

90th Percentile: Out of every 10 homes sampled, 9 were at or below this level.

Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL): These standards are developed to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

Unregulated Contaminants: Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated monitoring is to assist EPA in determining their occurrence in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards Guideline (ORSG): This is the concentration of a chemical in drinking water, at or below which, adverse health effects are unlikely to occur after chronic (lifetime) exposure. If exceeded, it serves as an indicator of the potential need for further action.

Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA): Primary federal law in the United States aimed at ensuring the quality of drinking water. It includes provisions for monitoring and testing water contaminants, as well as for protecting underground sources of water.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): This is an independent agency of the United States government that was established to protect human health and the environment.

Granular Activated Carbon (GAC): Porous material made from carbon-rich substances that is used to filter harmful chemicals out of contaminated water or air. The carbon-rich substances have been heated to "activate" the surface of the granules.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Running Annual Average (RAA): The average of four consecutive quarters of data.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant (chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide) allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant (chlorine, chloramines, chlorine dioxide) below which there is no known expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS): A group of man-made chemicals that have been used in various industrial and consumer products since the 1940s. These are widely used, long lasting chemicals which break down slowly over time.

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP): Government agency responsible for protecting the environment and public health by managing and regulating various environmental issues. This government agency is typically run at the state level.

SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT MONITORING DETECTIONS

Disinfectant Residuals Monitoring: No Violations

It is important to maintain a disinfection residual content throughout the distribution system. Wellesley uses sodium hypochlorite (chlorine) as its disinfectant. The MWRA uses chloramine as its disinfectant. We monitor for the disinfectants as Total Chlorine at the same sampling points as our bacteriological monitoring. Total Chlorine is a measure of both free chlorine and combined chlorine and thereby is a measure of both chlorination and chloramination.

The monitoring results for the year 2024 are as follows:

Disinfectant	Highest Level Detected	Range of Results	Highest Level Allowed (MRDL)	Ideal Goal (MRDLG)
Total Chlorine (ppm)	2.46	0.01 to 2.46	4.0	4.0

The results of this monitoring were in compliance with regulations as the Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level was not exceeded throughout the year.

Total Coliform Bacteria Monitoring: No Violations

Water quality samples from throughout the distribution system are analyzed weekly for the presence of total coliform bacteria. Coliform bacteria are a group of bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. Any time more than 5% of the systems water quality samples indicate the presence of total coliform within the same month, the Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) requires a system wide Level 1 Assessment to determine the cause. All total coliform positive samples are also tested for the presence of E-coli to determine if there is an acute risk to public health. Public water systems are required by this provision to "find and fix" any sanitary defects within 30 days of the trigger.

The monitoring results for 2024 on our designated sampling points within the distribution system were as follows:

# of Samples Analyzed in 2024	458
# of Positive TC Samples in 2024	0
# of Positive E. Coli Samples in 2024	0
Highest # of Positives per Month	0
Highest Monthly % Positives in 2024	0%

The water samples were taken at designated distribution system sampling points (i.e., eight locations widely distributed throughout the Town that are monitored approximately four times per month). When there is a total coliform positive sample result, repeat samples must be collected and analyzed for total coliform and E. coli. E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal waste. There were no positive E. Coli samples or distribution system positive TC samples in 2024.

Lead and Copper Monitoring: No Violations

The purpose of our corrosion control treatment facilities is to remove acidity from our water and thereby reduce its corrosiveness. The Treatment Technique (TT) used in our water treatment facilities primarily includes the aeration of water to release the naturally derived carbonic acid in the well water. Lead and copper can become present in your drinking water when the water corrodes those elements from the household plumbing. The measurement of lead and copper in the daily "first draw" of tap water from selected households is used to monitor the effectiveness of our corrosion control treatment.

In the year 2024, Wellesley conducted lead and copper monitoring in Bates Elementary School and Hunnewell Elementary School, with first draw samples at a hydration station and a sink in each school. No results exceeded the AL for either lead or copper.

School Lead & Copper Monitoring in 2024

	Highest Concentration, ppm	Range of Detection, ppm	Action Level, ppm
Total Lead	0.0015	ND - 0.0015	0.015
Total Copper	0.2845	0.0984 - 0.2845	1.3

In the year 2024, Wellesley conducted a monitoring of 31 DEP designated homes for "first draw" analyses of lead and copper as an evaluation of its corrosion control treatment. The monitoring was conducted in November according to EPA protocol. The EPA Action Level (AL) is based on the 90th percentile of each sample period. The results of this monitoring were as follows:

	Date(s) Collected	90th Percentile	Action Level	MCLG	# of sites sampled	# of sites above Action Level	Possible Source of Contamination
Lead (ppb)	Sept 2024	.0040	15	0	31	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	Sept 2024	.1724	1.3	1.3	31	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Wellesley DPW is responsible for providing high quality water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at http:/www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Additional information is available from the Wellesley DPW 781-235-7600 x3350.

Volatile Organic Contaminant Monitoring: No Violations

Volatile Organic Contaminants (VOCs) are a group of chemicals that contain carbon and readily evaporate. Many of them are used as solvents (e.g., Trichloroethylene) and/or fuel additives (e.g., benzene, toluene and MtBE). A total of fifty-six (56) volatile organic compounds are monitored quarterly as water is pumped from each of the three treatment facilities.

Our yearly monitoring at each of our three water treatment facilities during 2024 measured no volatile organic compounds except for trihalomethanes, which are discussed in the next section of this report.

Disinfection By-Product Monitoring: No Violations

Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and Total Haloacetic Acids (THAAs) are disinfection by-products that are formed by the chlorination of drinking water. The chemical compounds that make up TTHMs are chloroform, bromoform, dichlorobromomethane, and dibromochloromethane. The chemical compounds that make up THAAs are monochloroacetic acid, dichloroacetic acid, trichloroacetic acid, monobromoacetic acid, and dibromoacetic acid. The regulation of TTHMs and THAAs is based on the average concentration of four consecutive quarterly samples at each individual monitoring location. Wellesley has four DEP designated DBPR monitoring locations. The results of our quarterly monitoring of these disinfection by-products during 2024 were as follows:

Contaminants (units)	Highest Running Annual Average	Range of Measurements	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Ideal Goal (MCLG)
TTHMs (ppb)	55	7.6 to 53.2	80	0
THAAs (ppb)	16	1.04 to 28.6	60	0

The above listings for TTHMs and THAAs follow the regulatory format, namely, the MCL applies to the highest running average of four consecutive quarters at the highest individual site. The Range of Measurement represents the lowest and highest individual measurements during the year 2024. The Highest Level Allowed is regulated based on the Running Annual Average.

Volatile Organic Contaminant Monitoring: No Violations

The inorganic contaminants monitored in drinking water are the cations and anions of minerals, which are dissolved in the water. Many of the inorganic chemicals are metals and they also include cyanide. The following chemicals were monitored in the year 2024 as part of the SDWA Inorganic Chemical Monitoring Program and not detected: Antimony, Arsenic, Beryllium, Cadmium, Chromium, Cyanide, Mercury, Nickel, Selenium, and Thallium.

The inorganic chemicals detected in 2024 and their measurements were as follows:

Contaminants (units)	Highest Running Annual Average	Range of Measurements	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Ideal Goal (MCLG)
Barium (ppm)	0.064	0.050 to 0.064	2.0	2.0
Sodium (ppm)	140	82.1 to 140	NRS	NRS
Fluoride (ppm)	0.68	0.57 to 0.68	4.0	4.0

Barium is from the erosion of natural deposits or could be from the discharge of drilling wastes or from metal refineries.

Sodium is a leachate of road deicing salts, water treatment chemicals, and natural deposits. No regulatory standard (NRS) has been established for sodium. **A guideline for people with hypertension is to avoid consuming water with levels above 20 ppm. Therefore it should be noted that our water is in excess of this guideline.**

Fluoride is added to our water supply for the purpose of preventing tooth decay. Fluoride is a naturally occurring element in our water supplies in trace amounts. In our system the fluoride level is adjusted to an optimal level averaging 0.7 parts per million (ppm or mg/l) to improve oral health in children. At this level, it is safe, odorless, colorless, and tasteless.

Radionuclide Monitoring: No Violations

Radionuclides are radioactive particles present in the water supply at the points of entry into the distribution system from our three water treatment facilities. Radionuclide monitoring includes Gross Alpha, Uranium, Radium 226 and 228, and combined Radium. Radium 226 and 228 are naturally occurring radioactive minerals. We were not required to monitor for gross Alpha and Uranium in the year 2024. The results below are from 2014.

Contaminants (units)	Highest Running Annual Average	Range of Measurements	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Ideal Goal (MCLG)
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	ND	ND	15.0	0.0
Uranium (pCi/L)	ND	ND	1.0	0.0
Radium-226 (pCi/L)	ND	ND	5.0	0.0
Radium-228 (pCi/L)	ND	ND	5.0	0.0
Combined Radium (pCi/L)	ND	ND	5.0	0.0

There is presently no regulatory standard (NRS) for radon in drinking water. Radon is a radioactive gas that occurs naturally in some ground waters. It has an ORSG of 10,000 pCi/L. Other sources of radon gas are from soils at the foundation of homes, and radon inhaled directly while smoking cigarettes. It poses a lung cancer risk when elevated levels of radon gas are released from water into the air (as occurs during showering, bathing, or washing dishes and clothes) and a stomach cancer risk when you drink water containing elevated levels of radon. Radon gas released from drinking water is a relatively small part of the total radon in air.

A proposed MCL for radon in drinking water of 300 pCi/L is under consideration by the EPA. For more information on radon you may call the EPA's SDWA Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Synthetic Organic Contaminant Monitoring: No Violations

Synthetic Organic Contaminants (SOCs) generally represent pesticides, herbicides and polychlorinated biphenols (PCBs). There are a total of thirty-two (32) regulated chemicals and thirteen (13) unregulated chemicals included in the monitoring of Synthetic Organic Chemicals. In 2024, Wellesley monitored for SOCs during the first and third annual quarters. No SOCs were

detected during these two monitoring rounds. Due to Wellesley's long term compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act's (SDWA) Synthetic Organic Contaminants requirements, we are not required to monitor every year.

Nitrate Monitoring: No Violations

Nitrate and Nitrite are formed from the breakdown of fertilizers, septic tank leachate, and natural decomposition. Sulfate was monitored in 2020. Nitrite was monitored in 2023. Nitrates were monitored in 2024. All were done under the SDWA and detections were as follows:

Contaminants (units)	Highest Running Annual Average	Range of Measurements	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Ideal Goal (MCLG)
Nitrate (ppm)	1.5	1.1 to 1.5	10.0	10.0
Nitrite (ppm)	ND	ND	1.0	1.0
Sulfate (ppm)	14.7	12.0 to 14.7	NRS	NRS

Sulfate is a product of natural decomposition. No regulatory standard (NRS) has been established for sulfate. One is currently under consideration by the EPA. The SMCL for sulfate is 250 ppm.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Monitoring: No Violations

PFAS are a group of man-made chemicals that includes PFOA, PFOS, and many other chemicals. PFOA and PFOS are very persistent in the environment and in the human body – meaning they don't break down and they can accumulate over time. PFAS6 is defined as the sum of the concentrations of the following six PFAS compounds:

- Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)
- Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS)
- Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)
- Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS)
- Perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA)
- Perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA)

Possible sources of PFAS are discharges and emissions from industrial and manufacturing sources associated with the production or use of these PFAS, including production of moisture and oil resistant coatings on fabrics and other materials. Additional sources include the use and disposal of products containing these PFAS, such as fire-fighting foams.

Some people who drink water containing these PFAS in excess of the MCL may experience certain adverse effects. These could include effects on the liver, blood, immune system, thyroid, and fetal development. These PFAS may also elevate the risk of certain cancers.

Contaminants (units)	Highest Quarterly Average	Range of Detection	Highest Level Allowed (MCL)	Violation
PFAS6 (ppt)	19.38 Quarter 4 2023	ND to 22.73	20	No

GENERAL WATER CHARACTERISTICS

The following characteristics describe Wellesley's 2024 local water supplies. They are not considered to have health impacts, but rather describe characteristics of the water, which may impact water-use appliances and soap lathering capabilities. It is important to note that the MWRA's water supplies are significantly softer than Wellesley's water and therefore have different characteristics.

Characteristic	Highest Running Annual Average
pH	7.4 to 7.6
Total Dissolved Solids	380 to 520 (ppm)
Alkalinity	95 to 104 (ppm)
Calcium	32 to 139 (ppm)
Chloride	161 to 253 (ppm)

Characteristic	Highest Running Annual Average
Hardness	111 to 493 (ppm)
Hardness	6.5 to 28.8 grains per gallon
Iron	ND (ppm)
Magnesium	7.0 to 9.5 (ppm)
Manganese	ND to 0.01 (ppm)
Pottasium	22.6 to 42.1 (ppm)

COMPLIANCE WITH DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS

Does My Drinking Water Meet Current Health Standards?

We are committed to providing you with the best water quality available. We are proud to report that last year your drinking water met all applicable health standards regulated by the state and federal government.

As required by US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), our water system has sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by EPA. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a public health protection standard.

What should I do?

What should I do? You do not have to do anything but as our customers you have a right to know that these data are available. You may share this information with other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, food establishments, medical facilities and businesses).

For more information

For additional information on your water and the unregulated contaminants we sampled for visit the MassDEP website (http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/water-systems-ops.html) and navigate to Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Program.

If you want to speak with someone at the water department about the results, please contact the Wellesley DPW at 781-235-7600 x3350.

CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL AND BACKFLOW PREVENTION

The Wellesley Water and Sewer Division makes every effort to ensure that the water delivered to your home and business is clean, safe and free of contamination. Our staff works very hard to protect the quality of the water delivered to our customers from the time the water is extracted via deep wells from underground aquifers, throughout the entire treatment and distribution system. But what happens when the water reaches your home or business? Is there still a need to protect the water quality from contamination caused by a cross-connection? If so, how?

What is cross-connection?

A cross-connection occurs whenever the drinking water supply is or could be in contact with potential sources of pollution or contamination. Cross-connections exist in piping arrangements or equipment that allows the drinking water to come in contact with non-potable liquids, solids, or gases (hazardous to humans) in event of a backflow.

What is backflow?

Backflow is the undesired reverse of the water flow in the drinking water distribution lines. This backward flow of water can occur when the pressure created by equipment or a system such as a boiler or air-conditioning is higher than the water pressure inside the water distribution line (back pressure), or when the pressure in the distribution line drops due to routine occurrences such as water main breaks or heavy water demand causing the water to flow backwards inside the water distribution system (back siphonage). Backflow is a problem that many water consumers are unaware of, a problem that every water customer has a responsibility to help prevent.

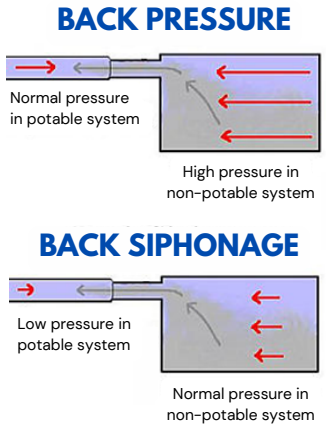


Figure #2

What can I do to help prevent a cross-connection?

Without the proper protection something as simple as a garden hose has the potential to contaminate or pollute the drinking water lines in your house. In fact over half of the country's cross-connection incidents involve unprotected garden hoses. There are very simple steps that you as a drinking water user can take to prevent such hazards, they are:

- NEVER submerge a hose in soapy water buckets, pet watering containers, pool, tubs, sinks, drains, or chemicals.
- NEVER attached a hose to a garden sprayer without the proper backflow preventer.
- Buy and install a hose bibb vacuum breaker in any threaded water fixture. The installation can be as easy as attaching a garden hose to a spigot. This inexpensive device is available at most hardware stores and home-improvement centers.
- Identify and be aware of potential cross-connections to your water line.
- Buy appliances and equipment with backflow preventers.
- Buy and install backflow prevention devices or assemblies for all high and moderate hazard connections.

If you are the owner or manager of a property that is being used as a commercial, industrial, or institutional facility you must have your property's plumbing system surveyed for cross-connection by your water purveyor. If your property has NOT been surveyed for cross-connection, contact your water department to schedule a cross-connection survey.

EDUCATIONAL STATEMENTS

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Ion Exchange Resin that has absorbed PFAS contaminants

- **Microbial contaminants** such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants** such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides,** which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- **Organic chemical contaminants** including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants,** which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and some infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on lowering the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations that limit the

the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Wellesley DPW is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

WATER CUSTOMER PORTAL

Wellesley water customers can now access the Water Customer Portal, a user friendly tool that helps you track water usage, learn how to lower bills and reduce your environmental impact. This online platform allows you to view historical data, spot potential leaks, and receive high usage alerts. By using water efficiently, your not only saving money but also supporting Wellesley's Climate Action Plan. To learn more and activate your account, visit the towns website at http://acewebsite.silverblaze.com/TownofWellesley.com.

Water & Sewer
Wellesley Department of Public Works

WATERING RESTRICTIONS

Drought conditions can change monthly, especially during warmer weather. Check our website regularly for current watering restrictions and drought updates. We'll notify customers through news announcements when restrictions change. Even without active restrictions, we encourage water-wise practices to protect our water resources. For statewide drought information, visit www.mass.gov/info-details/drought-status.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Water Commission for the Town of Wellesley is the Board of Public Works, which is a three-member board elected by the voters of the Town. The Board meets at regularly scheduled and publicly posted meetings throughout the year. The public is welcome at these meetings.

For more information on your Wellesley tap water, its sources of supply and the water treatment and distribution systems call the Water Superintendent, Aaron Miller, at (781) 235-7600 x 3350 and located at 20 Municipal Way.

WATER CONSERVATION

Excessive lawn irrigation can deplete wetland environments and increase the potential of drawing contaminants to drinking water wells. Watering lawns less frequently and near dawn will contribute to both conservation and to a healthier lawn by encouraging deeper root growth and reducing fungal damage. A general rule of thumb is that a mature lawn needs less than one-inch of water per week, including rain.

When constructing a new lawn, please consider the following:

- Provide 12 inches or more of organic soil to encourage deep rooting.
- Choose drought tolerant grass (high percentage of fine fescues) and plantings.
- Position the sprinkler heads to perform the most efficient watering.
- Consider drip irrigation where appropriate.
- Consider installation of a rain or soil moisture shut-off device that will automatically reduce unnecessary lawn watering.
- Be sure that your sprinkler system is equipped with the appropriate backflow prevention device.

INFORMATION ABOUT MWRA WATER

In cooperation with the Wellesley Water Department, the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority is pleased to send you this annual update on your drinking water quality. This report includes test results for 2024 and other important information about your tap water. In 2024 Wellesley received 35% of its drinking water from local well supplies, and 65% of its water from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). The MWRA supplies wholesale water to local water departments in 50 cities and towns in greater Boston and Metro West, and three Chicopee Valley Aqueduct (CVA) communities. MWRA water comes from Quabbin Reservoir, about 65 miles west of Boston, and the Wachusett Reservoir, about 35 miles west of Boston. Water from the Ware River, located between these two reservoirs, can also add to the supply at times. The reservoirs provide about 200 million gallons of high-quality water to consumers each day.

WATER TEST RESULTS

EPA requires that MWRA test for over 120 contaminants that may be in drinking water. MWRA found only those listed here. All of these levels were below EPA's Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL).

Compound	Units	(MCL) Highest Level Allowed	(We Found) Detected Level -Average	Range of Detections	(MCLG) Ideal Goal	Violation	How It Gets in the Water
Barium	ppm	2	0.008	0.008 - 0.009	2	No	Common mineral in water
Fluoride	ppm	4	0.7	0.33 - 0.77	4	No	Additive for dental health
Nitrate^	ppm	10	0.62	0.037 - 0.62	10	No	Byproduct of disinfection
Radium - 226	pCi/L	5	0.82	0.82	0	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids-5	ppb	60	22.9	4.4 - 24.9	NS	No	Byproduct of disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	80	26.3	7.9 - 24.4	NS	No	Byproduct of disinfection
Monochloramine	ppm	4-MRDL	1.94	0.04 - 3.85	4-MRDLG	No	Water disinfectant

KEY: MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level. The highest level of a contaminant allowed in water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available technology. MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal. The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety. MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants. MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected health risk. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination. ppm = parts per million. ppb = parts per billion. NS = no standard. ND = non-detect. ^ = As required by DEP, the maximum result is reported for nitrate. Radium result from 2023.

LEAD AND COPPER RESULTS

	Range	90% Value	Action Level	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	# Homes Above AL
Lead (ppb)	ND - 1390	6.9	15	0	16 of 595
Copper (ppb)	0.6 - 186	93	1300	0	0 of 595

Key: AL = Action Level - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

A key, initial test for reservoir water quality is turbidity, or cloudiness. Turbidity refers to the amount of suspended particles in the water and can impair water disinfection. All water must be below 5 NTU (nephelometric turbidity units), and water can only be above 1 NTU if it does not interfere with effective disinfection. In 2024, typical levels in the Wachusett Reservoir were 0.29 NTU, and the maximum results was 0.48 NTU.

MWRA also tests water for potential disease-causing organisms, including fecal coliform bacteria, and parasites such as Giardia and Cryptosporidium, that can enter the water from animal or human waste. All test results for the reservoir water were well within state and federal testing and treatment standards. Learn more about MWRA test results for waterborne contaminants and their potential health impacts at: www.mwra.com.

Thank you for taking the time to review our Consumer Confidence Report and for your continued support of our Water & Sewer Division. Your engagement helps us maintain the highest standards of water quality and service for our community.

We encourage you to sign up for the Water Customer Portal to track your usage, receive leak alerts, and discover ways to save money while supporting Wellesley's environmental goals. Visit http://acewebsite.silverblaze.com to activate your account and start managing your water usage more efficiently.

For more information on your Wellesley tap water, call Water Superintendent Aaron Miller at (781) 235-7600 x 3350.

Department of Public Works
20 Municipal Way
Wellesley, MA 02481

WELLESLEY

APRIL 6, 1881

DEPARTMENT

OF

PUBLIC WORKS